



WHITEHORSE MANOR INFANT SCHOOL
WILLOW CLASS NEWSLETTER



January 2015

Dear parents and carers of children in Willow Class,

Welcome back! Our topic this half term is '**food**'. Our work will include; using money and a visit to the local supermarket. We will be exploring different foods and the children will help to set up a food related role play area.

In our literacy work, we will focus on developing an understanding of story structure (beginning, middle and end) and using phonics when reading and writing. We will be reading books about food including 'The Little Red Hen', 'Oliver's Vegetables' and 'My Granny Went to Market'.

We will be:

- reading common words;
- writing for different purposes (e.g. lists, letters, instructions and stories);
- using descriptive language;
- retelling stories and making up our own versions of stories that we've read together.

In mathematics, the children will be focusing on developing mental maths skills, so that they can work out things quickly using a variety of strategies. We will be developing the use of language in measurement and number, developing strategies for adding and subtracting and using a variety of coins in play.

Help your child by:

- counting out amounts to 10p using pennies and talk to your child about coins and their value;
- playing games using dice, number cards, number lines;
- encouraging your child to count out objects and compare groups of objects;
- taking away from and adding to groups of objects and asking how many are left;
- inviting your child to make sensible predictions or estimations.

In expressive arts and design, the children will take part in music activities that will help them to practise and make up their own rhythms, using instruments to play them. They will also continue to sing action songs, develop traveling and balancing skills and move expressively to music in the classroom and PE lessons. We will be thinking about how exercise helps us to be healthy and talking about other ways in which we can look after our bodies (brushing our teeth and washing our hands etc.). The children will also learn how to use a variety of materials to make pictures and models.

We will be learning about healthy eating. Talk to your child about what food is good for them and what is not. Why do they need to brush their teeth after eating sweets? Why is it important to eat fruit and drink milk? We will be visiting a local supermarket and looking at different fruits and vegetables they sell there. You could help your child by talking about the different fruits and vegetables you eat at home and what they taste like. Encourage your child to taste fruits and vegetables that they have never had before!

Golden Books

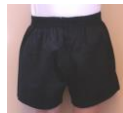
Your child will soon be bringing home a simple, repetitive book to read to you. (This is in addition to the book they already choose for themselves to take home.) This book will have a gold sticker on it. They will keep the book for a week.

To help your child when reading we would recommend that you:

- read the book to your child first to help them get to know the text, talking about the characters, any difficult words or unusual vocabulary;
- begin to let your child 'take over' reading, encouraging them to point to the words as they read;
- help your child to find repeated words in the text (shorter words such as the, go, to);
- read it a number of times throughout the week to help build up your child's confidence as a reader;
- don't worry if you feel they have just memorised the text or used picture clues to help them – they need to feel that they are the reader. This is an important stage of reading development;
- help them out by telling them words that they find tricky to read, but also encourage them to have a go themselves;
- talk about the storyline and the different characters;
- remember not to let your child sound out 'tricky' words (the list was given out during parent meetings) as these are read as whole words and cannot be decoded.;
- keep on reading a range of genres to your child, e.g. non-fiction, poetry.

Please look after these books and put them back in your child's book bag after each read.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO CHECK THAT YOUR CHILD HAS THEIR NAME IN EVERY ITEM OF CLOTHING IN THEIR PE BAG.



Key dates

Family Assembly 9:15am Thursday 5th March

Thank you for your continued support,

**Tanya Headley
Willow Class**